

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 18 as follows:

The N⁰-acylamino acid may be easily synthesized by, for example, subjecting a basic amino acid and a long-chain fatty acid to dehydration by heating. An example of the commercially available N⁰-acylamino acid is ~~Amihope-LL~~ AMIHOPE LL (N^e-lauroyl-L-lysine) manufactured by Ajinomoto.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 18 as follows:

N^e-Lauroyl-L-lysine (~~Amihope-LL~~ AMIHOPE LL; manufactured by Ajinomoto) (19.71 g, 60 mmol) was dissolved in 600 ml of a 2 wt% aqueous solution of NaOH and ethyl ether was added thereto. Freshly distilled oxalyl chloride (3.81 g, 30 mmol) was slowly added to the ether layer. The two-layered solution was stirred for about 1 hour by keeping at 0°C and, after that, it was stirred for 23 hours at room temperature. The resulting white precipitate was filtered, well washed with water and dried. The resulting crude product was purified by recrystallizing twice from methanol-ether. Its data by elementary analysis, IR, NMR, etc. supported the structure. Result of the IR measurement is shown below.

Please delete the Abstract appearing at page 29 and insert therefor the enclosed substitute Abstract as new page 29.